10

# FRONT LINE™

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT

# CIVIL WAR™

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DIRECT EDITION

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JENKINS

BACHS

LIEBER

WATSON

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS. THIS IS IMMENSE.
THIS IS EVERYTHING--
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME. I JUST WANTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. IF THEY FIND OUT I CAME HERE THEY'RE GOING TO THINK I BETRAYED THEM.
TRY'N' SAVE
RECORD MART

# EMBEDDED PART TEN

YOU DIDN'T BETRAY ANYONE JUST BY GIVING ME A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION, CAROL. PLUS, YOU WON'T OWE ME THAT FAVOR ANYMORE. AFTER THIS, WE'RE EVEN.
WE'RE MORE THAN EVEN, SALLY. NOW YOU OWE ME.
I CAN'T STAY LONG, OKAY?

THIS IS A CONDENSED RECORD OF MODIFICATIONS MADE TO OSBORN'S NANITE CONTROLLERS. I WAS HELPING REED RICHARDS ANALYZE CHANGES MADE TO THEIR FIRMWARE.
IF WE KNEW WHAT DATES THE NANITES MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALTERED, WE'D BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHO HAD ACCESS TO OSBORN AT THOSE TIMES.

WAITAMINNIT... IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?
WORSE, SALLY. I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING MAJORLY MESSED UP GOING ON INTERNALLY. THIS PROVES IT.

PAUL JENKINS WRITER
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DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

AFTER ANALYZING SEVERAL OF NORMAN OSBORN'S BEFORE-AND-AFTER SAMPLES, WE'VE DETERMINED SPECIALIZED MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE TO HIS NANITES' BEHAVIORAL PROTOCOLS.
AS YOU ALL RIGHTLY SUSPECT, THIS COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM--SOMEONE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO OSBORN.

TONY...THAT'S NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE HERE. WHAT WE ALL WANT TO KNOW IS, "WHO AND WHY?"
THE CULPRIT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION. I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

YOU HAVE *GOT* TO BE KIDDING. DON'T YOU DARE PULL THAT "NATIONAL SECURITY" BULL ON THE VERY PEOPLE WHO'VE STOOD BY YOU THROUGH THIS ENTIRE ORDEAL! WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!
HANK...PLEASE *TRUST* US--IF WE TELL YOU, IT'S GOING TO CAUSE A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN BEFORE.

FORGET IT, RICHARDS! IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, THERE'S A BIG, DARK CLOUD OF *SUSPICION* FLOATING OVER EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM!
THERE'S ONE WAY YOU CAN *GUARANTEE* MY TRUST: TELL US WHO THE TRAITOR IS. IS IT ONE OF US?

AND?
THEY DIDN'T SAY.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, CAROL. WHY CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF A TRAITOR WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION, AND THEN STAY TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THAT PERSON'S IDENTITY? COULD IT BE THE SENTRY, MAYBE?
I MEAN, DID THEY EVEN SUGGEST A REASON FOR WHY ANYONE WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO CONSPIRE WITH OSBORN?
NOT EVEN CLOSE. BUT WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR AFTER WHAT OSBORN DID TO THE ATLANTEANS. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS THERE.
LOOK...I HAVE TO GO, OKAY? I'LL TELL MY UNCLE BENNY YOU SAID "HI."
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU *UP* TO, MISTER TONY STARK?
OMIGOD.
OMIGOD... SURELY IT CAN'T BE THAT *SIMPLE*...

BEN, LISTEN TO ME: YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT I JUST FIGURED OUT ABOUT STARK!
I DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IT MYSELF! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT. WE DON'T COVER STUFF LIKE THIS--
YEAH, WELL... JUST YOU HOLD THAT THOUGHT, KIDDO. 'CAUSE WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT STARK, YOU'RE GOING TO SOIL YOUR BRITCHES.
THIS ISN'T JUST BIG, SALLY. THIS IS THE WHOLE ENTIRE SHEBANG.
PARK
HOTEL
MARY
FedEx
NYC TAXI
BUGLE
TIMER

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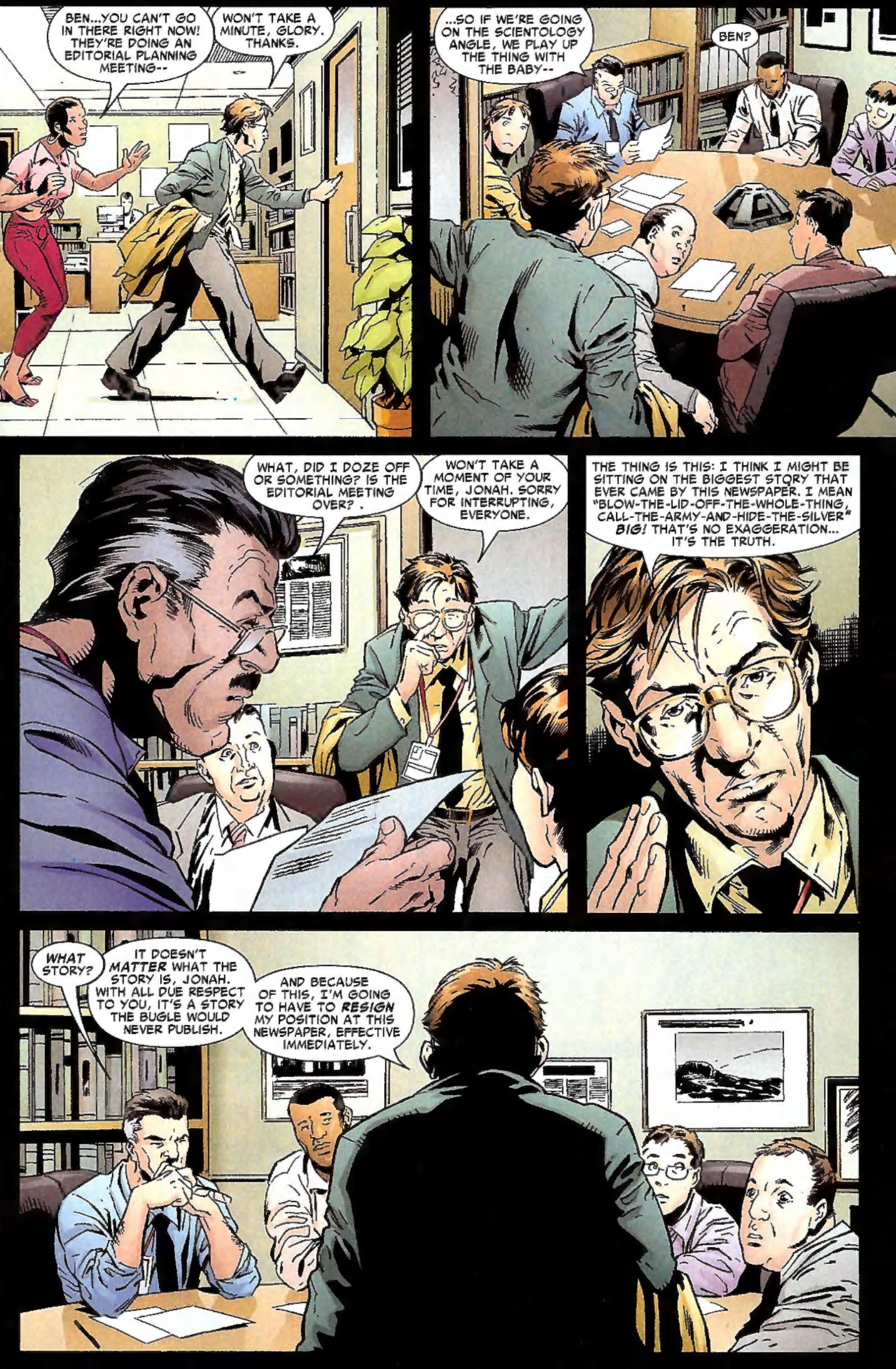
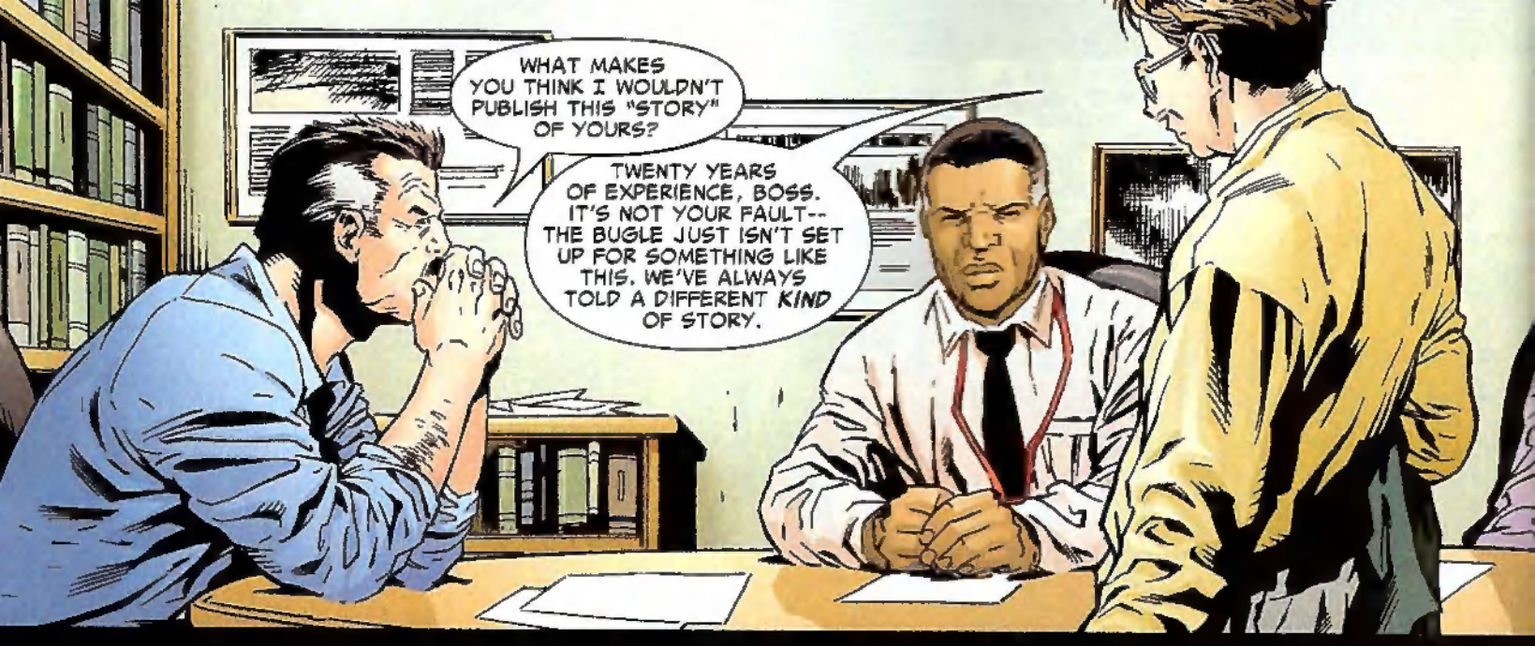
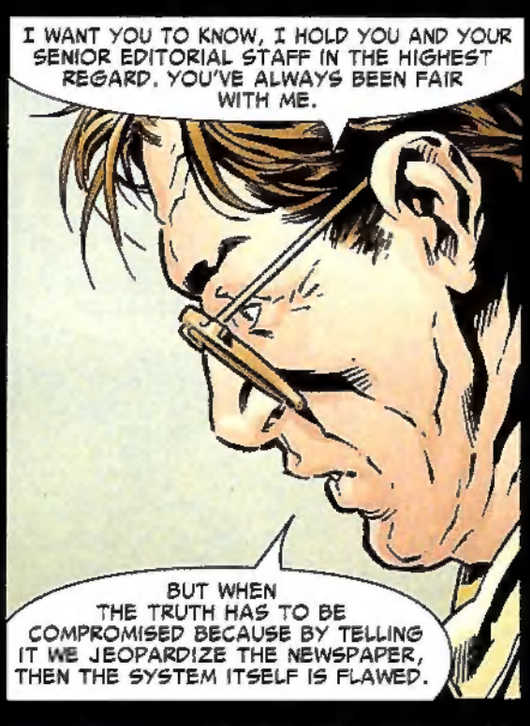

BEN...YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE RIGHT NOW! THEY'RE DOING AN EDITORIAL PLANNING MEETING--
WON'T TAKE A MINUTE, GLORY. THANKS.
...SO IF WE'RE GOING ON THE SCIENTOLOGY ANGLE, WE PLAY UP THE THING WITH THE BABY--
BEN?
WHAT, DID I DOZE OFF OR SOMETHING? IS THE EDITORIAL MEETING OVER? .
WON'T TAKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, JONAH. SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING, EVERYONE.
THE THING IS THIS: I THINK I MIGHT BE SITTING ON THE BIGGEST STORY THAT EVER CAME BY THIS NEWSPAPER. I MEAN "BLOW-THE-LID-OFF-THE-WHOLE-THING, CALL-THE-ARMY-AND-HIDE-THE-SILVER" *BIG!* THAT'S NO EXAGGERATION... IT'S THE TRUTH.
*WHAT* STORY?
IT DOESN'T *MATTER* WHAT THE STORY IS, JONAH. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO YOU, IT'S A STORY THE BUGLE WOULD NEVER PUBLISH.
AND BECAUSE OF THIS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *RESIGN* MY POSITION AT THIS NEWSPAPER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.


WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULDN'T PUBLISH THIS "STORY" OF YOURS?
TWENTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, BOSS. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT-- THE BUGLE JUST ISN'T SET UP FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS. WE'VE ALWAYS TOLD A DIFFERENT *KIND* OF STORY.


I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I HOLD YOU AND YOUR SENIOR EDITORIAL STAFF IN THE HIGHEST REGARD. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN FAIR WITH ME.
BUT WHEN THE TRUTH HAS TO BE COMPROMISED BECAUSE BY TELLING IT WE JEOPARDIZE THE NEWSPAPER, THEN THE SYSTEM ITSELF IS FLAWED.

BEN--TRY TO THINK CLEARLY HERE. YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD OUR FULL SUPPORT EDITORIALLY--
ROBBIE... JUST SHUT YOUR PIE-HOLE FOR A MOMENT, OKAY?

I WANT EVERYONE OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.
EXCEPT *YOU*, URICH. YOU *STAY*.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, BEN.
I JUST WANT TO SAY I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK.

REALLY?
REALLY. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRAIGHT SHOOTER WITH ME, AN' A DAMN FINE REPORTER. I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN A MAN'S MADE HIS MIND UP.
MY DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN TO YOU. IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT, CALL ME AN' WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.
THANKS, JONAH. THAT MEANS AN AWFUL LOT COMING FROM YOU. IT REALLY DOES.
WELL...I GUESS THIS IS IT.
I GUESS IT IS.
NUTS.

...WHILE ALL SIGNS POINT TO A LARGE-SCALE MOBILIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS JUST BEYOND THE NEW SEVENTY-MILE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, SONAR READOUTS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE AS TO THE SIZE AND STRENGTH OF ATLANTEAN FORCES.
INTERNATIONALLY, SOME QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED AS TO THE LEGALITY OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE, WHICH EXTENDS BEYOND RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES.
AT THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY TODAY, BOTH CHINA AND RUSSIA EXPRESSED THEIR VEHEMENT OPPOSITION TOWARDS AMERICAN POLICIES REGARDING THE SUB-AQUATIC NATION.
MEANWHILE, CONFLICT RAGES AT HOME WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGISTRATION ACT IMPELLING MANY COSTUMED INDIVIDUALS TOWARDS CIVIL WAR.
THE SENATE MINORITY OPPOSITION LEADER TODAY CONDEMNED THE ACTIONS OF BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK-- ALSO KNOWN AS IRON MAN-- SUGGESTING THAT MISTER STARK'S UNPRECEDENTED INFLUENCE WITH CONGRESS HAS PUSHED THIS COUNTRY TO A STATE OF WAR WITH ATLANTIS--
YOU CHOSE TO BE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, TONY.
JUST STAY THE COURSE, MY FRIEND.

TIMES SQUARE--
6:14 P.M.
WELCOME

BEN! BEN! I'M OVER HERE!

BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU. YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I COULD THINK OF WHO'D EVEN *REMOTELY* UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO *BELIEVE* THIS--
BA-BOOM!

OH, NO...NOT *NOW*.

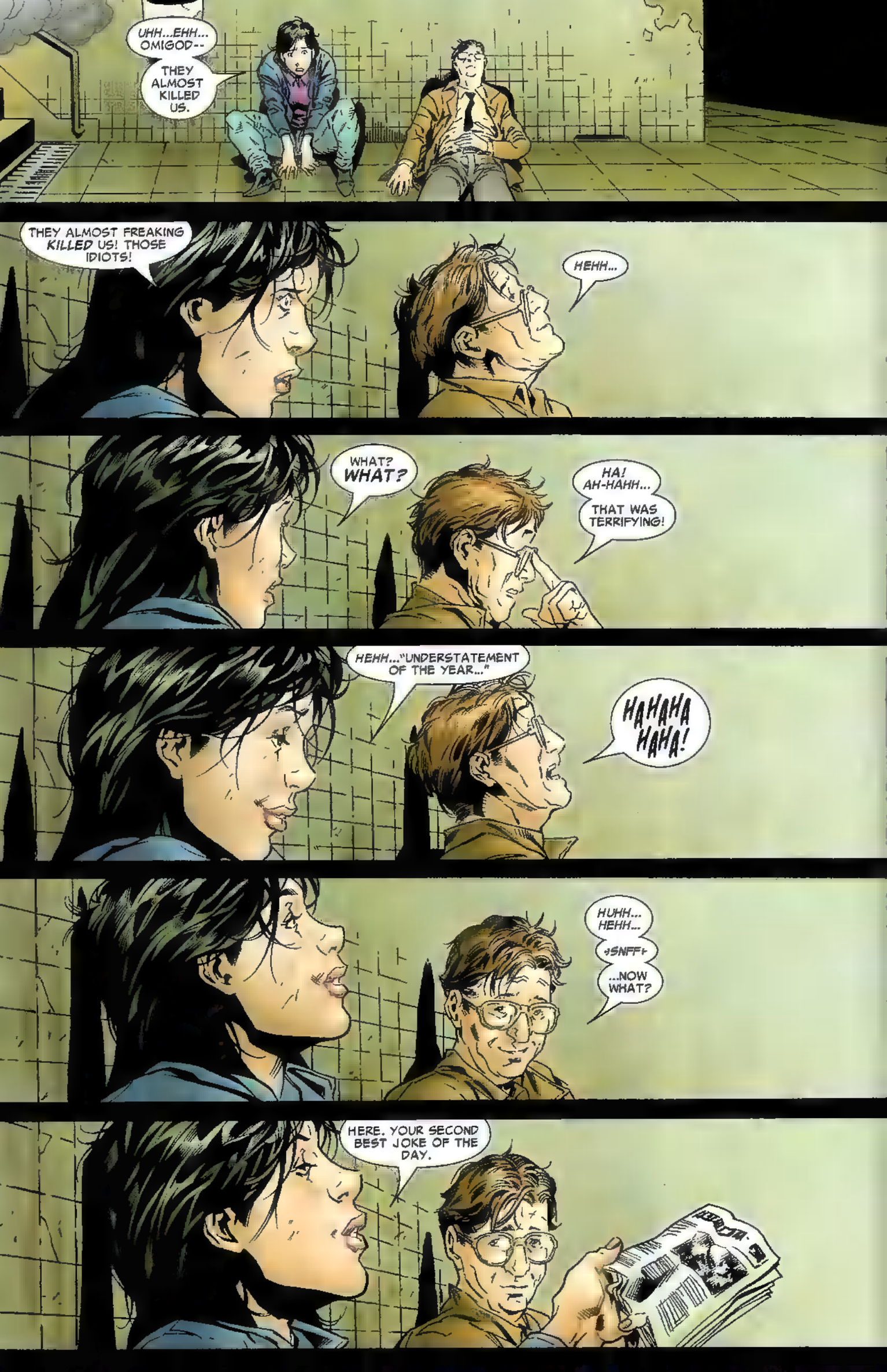
Come back, sweetheart.
Gotta play! Hehh... ha!
ANOTHER BUILDING PAGE...
WILL ROC

NOW WHAT? DID I MISS SOMETHING?
I DON'T KNOW... WHERE ARE ALL THESE GUYS COMING FROM-- DROPPING FROM THE SKIES! WE'VE GOTTA GET UNDER COVER!
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
GOOSE

Hot Stuff
Breath with Menthol
OVER THERE! THE SUBWAY!

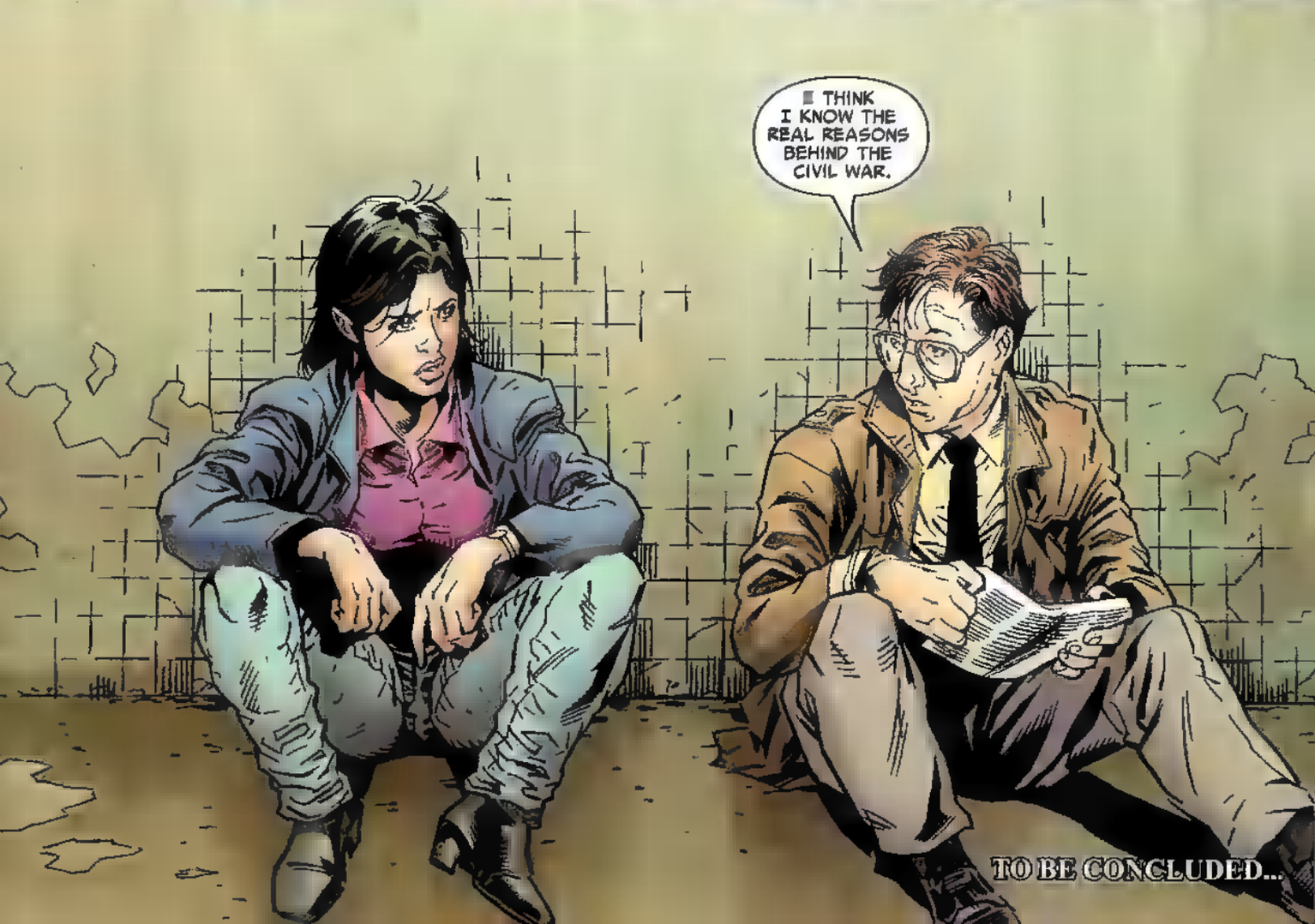
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN! BEN...LISTEN TO ME...YOU'VE GOTTA SEE WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT STARK!
IF I'M RIGHT, THIS WHOLE THING JUST BLEW WIDE OPEN. COME ON!
+HUFF+ RIGHT BEHIND YOU...SLOW DOWN...
HAVE AT THEE, SCOUNDREL!
KRASH!
BEN! BEN!
BEN... ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S TYPEFACE... I THINK HE'S DEAD...
DIDN'T YOU GET THE MEMO?
THIS IS A BAD TIME TO BE A HERO.

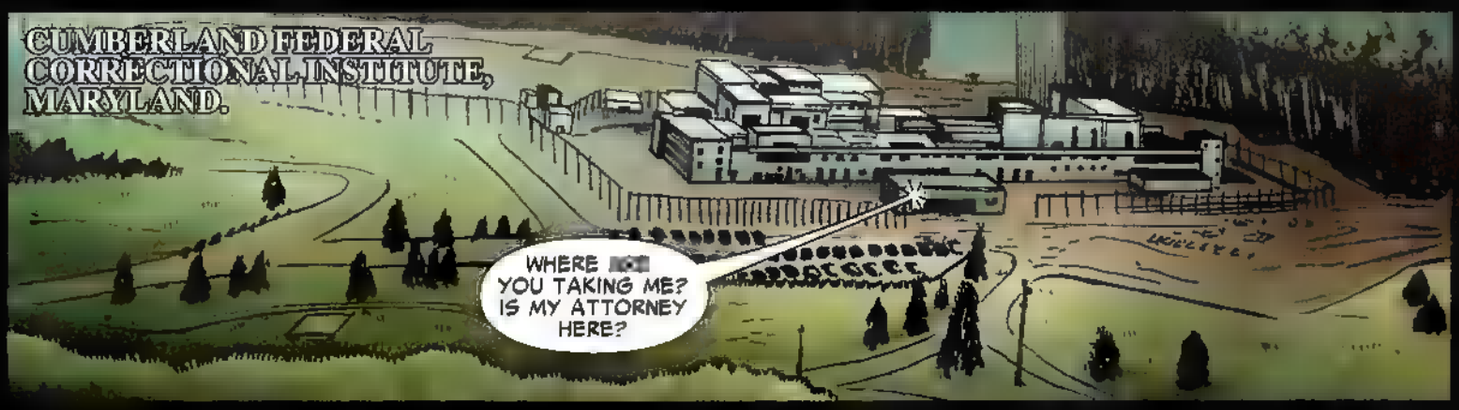
I FOUND SOMETHING OUT ABOUT STARK--
SAY WHAT?
STARK! STARK! YOU'RE NEVER GONNA BELIEVE IT!
FIX YOURSELF
DON'T SMOKE
READ
WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID YOU FIND?
IN A MINUTE! PLEASE TO AVOID HORRIBLE, FIERY DEATH FIRST!
Read More...
HURRY! IN HERE!
KRA-BOOM!


UHH...EHH... OMIGOD--
THEY ALMOST KILLED US.
THEY ALMOST FREAKING KILLED US! THOSE IDIOTS!
HEHH...
WHAT? WHAT?
HA! AH-HAHH...
THAT WAS TERRIFYING!
HEHH..."UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR..."
HAHAHA HAHA!
HUHH... HEHH...
♪SNFF♪
...NOW WHAT?
HERE. YOUR SECOND BEST JOKE OF THE DAY.

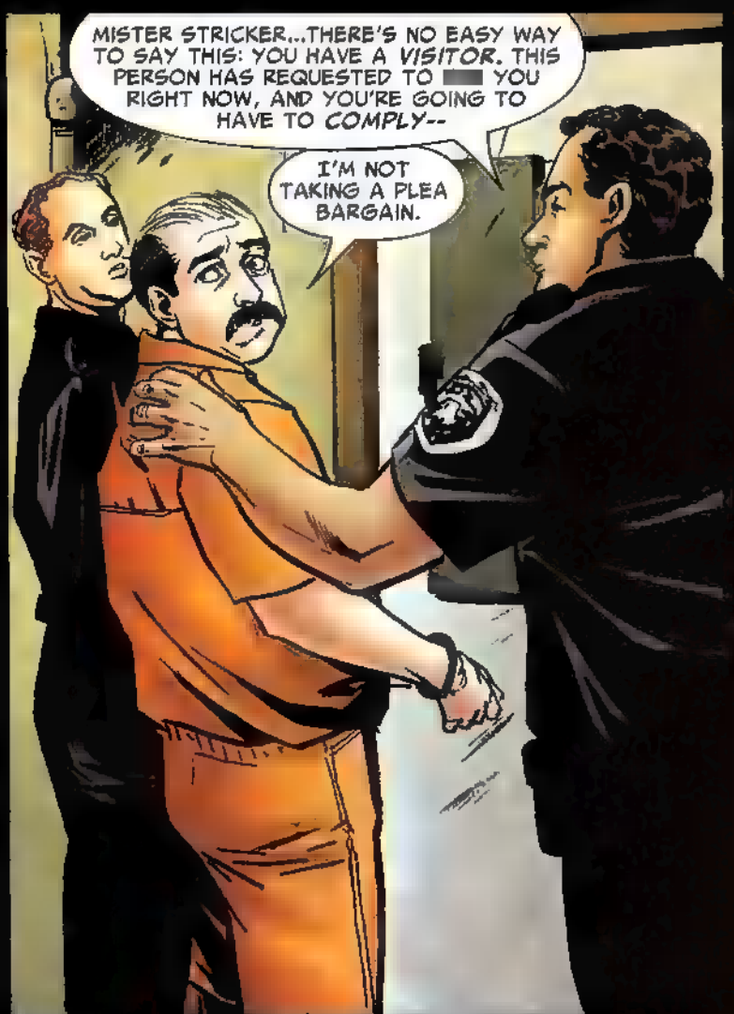
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, SALLY...BUT THIS CONFIRMS EVERYTHING I'VE SUSPECTED ABOUT STARK ALL ALONG.
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT EVEN SURPRISED?
I WAS WHEN I CAME TO THE EXACT SAME CONCLUSIONS LATE LAST NIGHT.
SURELY YOU KID.


I SWEAR, SALLY. THIS WAS THE BOMBSHELL I WAS GOING TO DROP ON YOU. YOU JUST BEAT ME TO IT.
THEN IT'S TRUE?
IT'S TRUE.


I THINK I KNOW THE REAL REASONS BEHIND THE CIVIL WAR.
TO BE CONCLUDED...


CUMBERLAND FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE, MARYLAND.
WHERE [redacted] YOU TAKING ME? IS MY ATTORNEY HERE?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MY ATTORNEY HERE IF I'M BEING QUESTIONED.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?


MISTER STRICKER...THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS: YOU HAVE A VISITOR. THIS PERSON HAS REQUESTED TO [redacted] YOU RIGHT NOW, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPLY--
I'M NOT TAKING A PLEA BARGAIN.

BALDWIN DESERVED TO DIE. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN THIS COUNTRY WHO DOESN'T AGREE WITH ME. EVEN THE JUDGES.
HE KILLED MY LITTLE GIRL. NO ONE'S GOING TO BLAME ME FOR WHAT I DID.

YOU CAN [redacted] ME TO THE GAS CHAMBER FOR ALL I CARE! I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE--

# THE ACCUSED PART TEN

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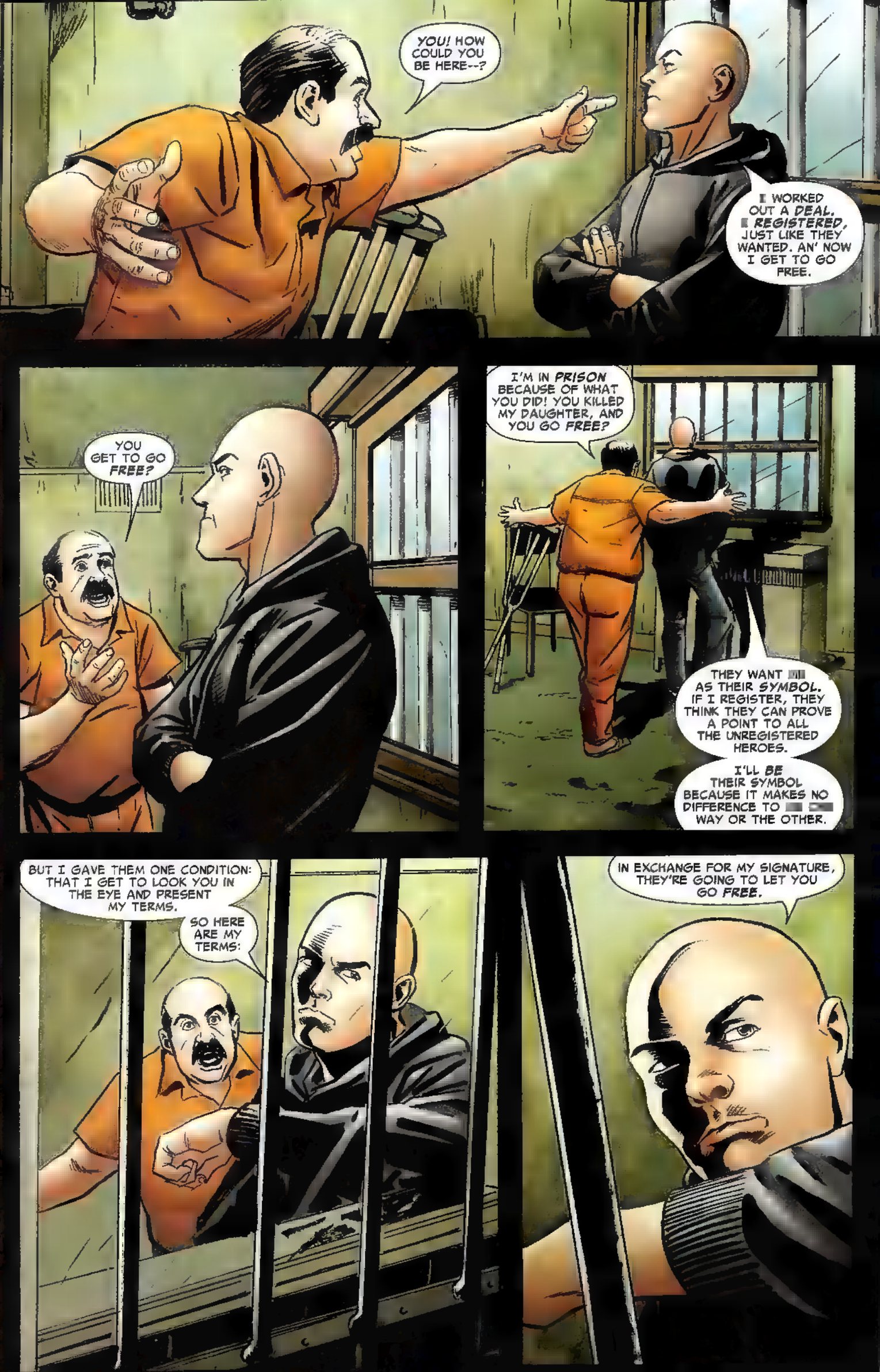
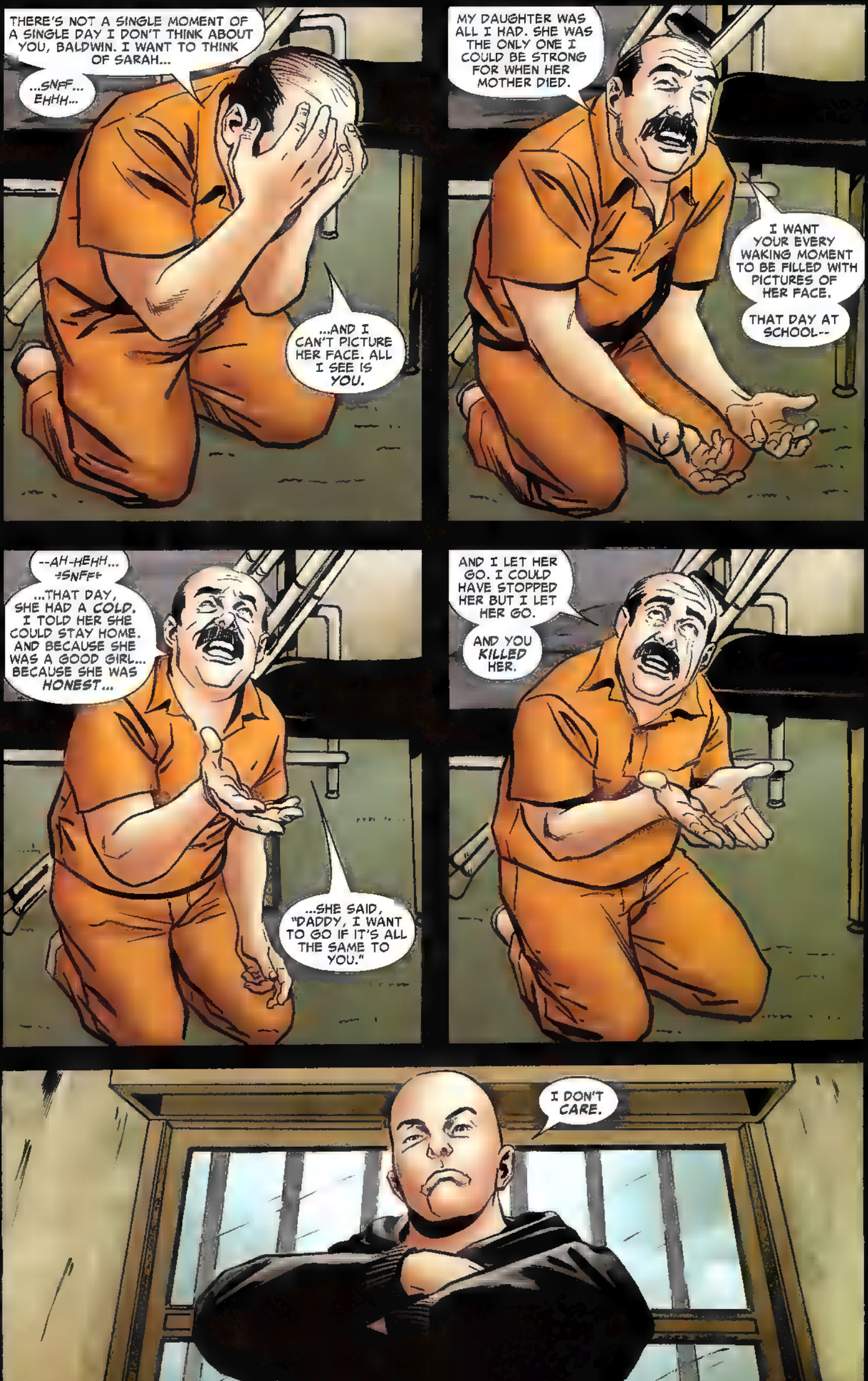

YOU! HOW COULD YOU BE HERE--?
I WORKED OUT A DEAL. I REGISTERED, JUST LIKE THEY WANTED. AN' NOW I GET TO GO FREE.
YOU GET TO GO FREE?
I'M IN PRISON BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID! YOU KILLED MY DAUGHTER, AND YOU GO FREE?
THEY WANT [redacted] AS THEIR SYMBOL. IF I REGISTER, THEY THINK THEY CAN PROVE A POINT TO ALL THE UNREGISTERED HEROES.
I'LL BE THEIR SYMBOL BECAUSE IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO [redacted] WAY OR THE OTHER.
BUT I GAVE THEM ONE CONDITION: THAT I GET TO LOOK YOU IN THE EYE AND PRESENT MY TERMS.
SO HERE ARE MY TERMS:
IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SIGNATURE, THEY'RE GOING TO LET YOU GO FREE.

NO! YOU CAN'T JUST WAVE A WAND AND ABSOLVE YOURSELF OF WHAT YOU DID!
SLAP
YOU MURDERED MY DAUGHTER, YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE!
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU.
AHEHH+
I HATE YOU.
I HATE YOU.
...SHE WAS EVERYTHING TO ME...
HH-UHH+ SNFF...
ALL I HAVE LEFT IS HATE.
DON'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME TOO.

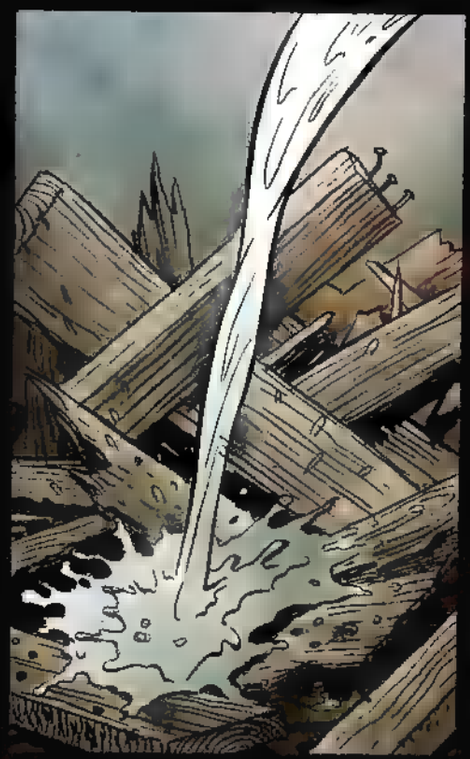

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE MOMENT OF A SINGLE DAY I DON'T THINK ABOUT YOU, BALDWIN. I WANT TO THINK OF SARAH...
...SNFF... EHHH...
...AND I CAN'T PICTURE HER FACE. ALL I SEE IS YOU.
MY DAUGHTER WAS ALL I HAD. SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULD BE STRONG FOR WHEN HER MOTHER DIED.
I WANT YOUR EVERY WAKING MOMENT TO BE FILLED WITH PICTURES OF HER FACE.
THAT DAY AT SCHOOL--
--AH-HEHH... SNFF
...THAT DAY, SHE HAD A COLD. I TOLD HER SHE COULD STAY HOME. AND BECAUSE SHE WAS A GOOD GIRL... BECAUSE SHE WAS HONEST...
...SHE SAID, "DADDY, I WANT TO GO IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU."
AND I LET HER GO. I COULD HAVE STOPPED HER BUT I LET HER GO.
AND YOU KILLED HER.
I DON'T CARE.

HOW COULD YOU CARE? YOU'RE NOT A MAN. YOU'RE DIRT. YOU'RE NOTHING.
YOU SHOT ME FULL IN THE GUT, MISTER STRICKER. I GOT PIECES OF BULLET PRESSING AGAINST THE NERVE ENDINGS IN MY SPINE BECAUSE OF YOU.
I CAN'T EAT...I CAN'T SLEEP... I CAN'T BREATHE WITHOUT THIS PAIN. IT DOMINATES EVERY WAKING MOMENT, OF WHICH THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY.
IF I COULD SLEEP, I'D DREAM EVERY NIGHT ABOUT THE SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THAT EXPLOSION.
YOU DON'T FEEL PAIN. YOUR REMORSE IS FOR YOURSELF.
OH, I [redacted] IT, BOSS. THE SHRAPNEL IN MY SPINE IS GOING TO DEGENERATE THE DISCS. TIME'S GOING TO HEAL YOUR WOUND, BUT IT'S GOING TO MAKE MINE WORSE.

BEFORE LONG, PAIN WILL DRIVE EVERYTHING I DO.
AND BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE PEOPLE ON MY WATCH, IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

ROBBIE...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS--
NEITHER DID YOU. BUT YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE.
NO! NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, ROBBIE BALDWIN: THE REGISTRATION ACT REQUIRES ONLY THAT YOU REGISTER YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS WITH AUTHORITIES.
AND EVERY NUT-JOB IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE YOU MADE MY NAME PUBLIC.
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
YOU DIDN'T TRY TO *PREVENT* IT.
YOU THINK A MAN LIKE ME JUST *REGISTERS?* I'M THE MOST HATED MAN IN AMERICA, THANKS TO YOUR REGISTRATION ACT. IN CASE YOU FORGOT, YOUR S.H.I.E.L.D. FLUNKIES PUT MY FAMILY IN DANGER.
THAT WAS A MISTAKE. I SINCERELY REGRET THAT.
I'LL BET YOU DO. BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY BECAUSE IT'S NOT HAPPENING TO YOU.
WE CAN PROTECT YOU.
I DON'T *WANT* PROTECTION.
WHAT *DO* YOU WANT, ROBBIE? DID YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER THAT?
I WANT TO GO BACK IN TIME AND STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING, YOU IGNORANT JERK.

IF YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS, ROBBIE--IF YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO--IT'S TANTAMOUNT TO COMMITTING SUICIDE.
YEAH, WELL...I ALREADY COVERED HOMICIDE AN' GENOCIDE. I WANTED THE COMPLETE SET.
WE DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR NEW POWERS WORK--
THAT'S ALL YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN, RICHARDS, ISN'T IT? I'M NOT A FRIEND. I'M NOT A COLLEAGUE. YOU DON'T [redacted] ANYONE THAT WAY.
WE'RE ALL JUST LAB RATS TO YOU.
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, PAL: THE PERFECT IRONY OF THIS SITUATION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SCRIPTED ANY BETTER.
ALL THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED...AND NOW MY POWERS ARE DRIVEN BY IT. EVERY TIME I FEEL A PUNCH RATTLE THOSE BULLET FRAGMENTS [redacted] MY SPINE, I'LL FEEL THAT OLD SURGE OF KINETIC ENERGY AND I'LL REMEMBER.
YOU CAN'T FIGHT DESTINY, RICHARDS. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN THIS WAY.
I'LL BE IN FOR WORK AT NINE A.M. SHARP... JUST LIKE OUR AGREEMENT SAYS.
"THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA DO FIRST."



KEROSENE

KEROSENE

FWIP!

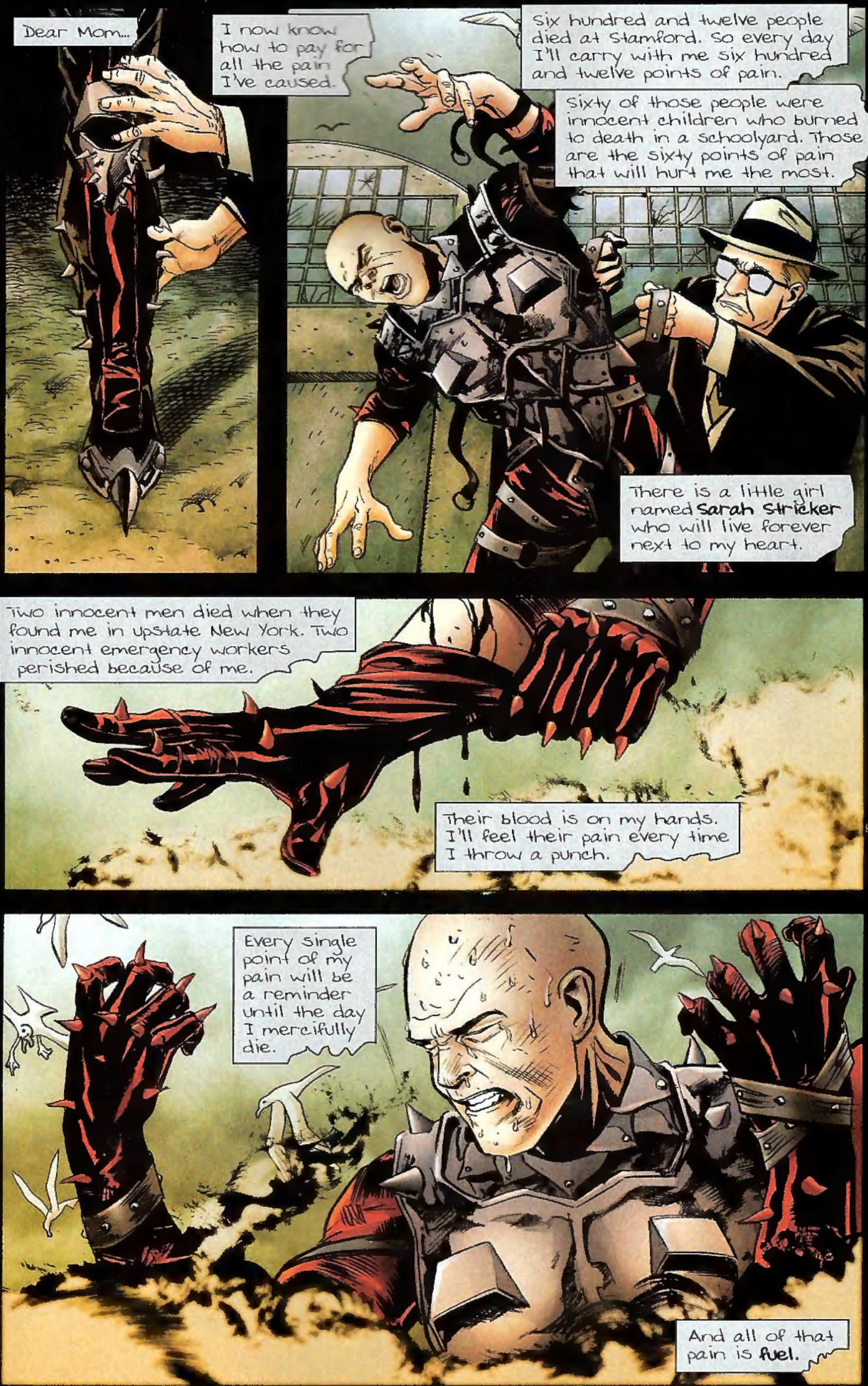
ARE YOU THE ONE?
THAT DEPENDS ON YOU. DID YOU BRING IT?

DID YOU BRING THE MONEY?
EVERYTHING I HAVE.
THAT MEANS NOTHING TO ME. I AM A PROFESSIONAL. THE PRICE IS THE PRICE.

IT'S ALL IN HERE.
SHOW ME.

KL KLAK

I MADE SURE TO PROVIDE THE EXACT NUMBER OF SPIKES YOU REQUESTED AND POSITIONED THEM EXACTLY WHERE YOU ASKED.
WHY DO I THINK I KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN? YOU SEEM FAMILIAR.
YOU MADE A COSTUME FOR ME ONCE.
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU. I ALWAYS REMEMBER A FACE.
I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON.
WHICH ONE WERE YOU? WHAT COSTUME?
DOESN'T MATTER. I BURNED IT.
VERY WELL. THE LARGER SPIKES WILL NO DOUBT CAUSE AN EXTREME AMOUNT OF SUFFERING TO THE WEARER. THEY ARE HARDENED WITH CARBONATE STEEL.
THE ENERGY CONDUITS RUN THROUGH THEIR CENTER...THOUGH I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY USE FOR THIS OTHER THAN TORTURE.
WHOMEVER THIS IS INTENDED FOR, YOU MUST HATE THEM VERY MUCH.
I DO.
WHO IS IT? I MUST KNOW.
ME.


Dear Mom...
I now know how to pay for all the pain I've caused.
Six hundred and twelve people died at Stamford. So every day I'll carry with me six hundred and twelve points of pain.
Sixty of those people were innocent children who burned to death in a schoolyard. Those are the sixty points of pain that will hurt me the most.
There is a little girl named **Sarah Stricker** who will live forever next to my heart.
Two innocent men died when they found me in upstate New York. Two innocent emergency workers perished because of me.
Their blood is on my hands. I'll feel their pain every time I throw a punch.
Every single point of my pain will be a reminder until the day I mercifully die.
And all of that pain is **fuel.**

One last thing, Mom...
AA-AHH!
KRA-POP!
You won't ever see me again.

YOUR SILENCE IS A PART OF THE ASKING PRICE FOR THE COSTUME. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.
WAIT I REMEMBER YOU NOW...
YOU'RE BALDWIN-- THE NEW WARRIOR! I MADE ONE OF YOUR SPEEDBALL COSTUMES--
ROBBIE BALDWIN IS DEAD.
SPEEDBALL IS DEAD.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR PENANCE.
JENKINS LIEBER 2006